

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 27, 2007. Claims 7 to 18 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 to 6 having been canceled. Claims 7 and 13 are now the independent claims pending herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Office Action has maintained the objection to Figs. 5 and 6 of the drawings regarding an alleged lack of a "Prior Art" legend. However, the Examiner has apparently overlooked the Replacement Sheet for Figs. 5 and 6 which, was filed with the September 6, 2007 Amendment, and wherein those figures were labeled with the "Prior Art" legend. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Publication No. 2004/0111494 (Kostic). Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, the rejections are believed to be obviated by the cancellation of the rejected claims. Nonetheless, it is respectfully submitted that newly-added Claims 7 to 18 are believed to be allowable over the art of record for at least the following reasons.

The invention concerns providing a service in a UPnP network system. According to the invention, a communication apparatus has a plurality of network connections, each of which is assigned an IP address. The apparatus notifies the external device of the plurality of IP addresses, and when one is selected by the external device, the communication apparatus selects that IP address and then releases the remaining IP addresses. The service is then provided to the external device utilizing the selected IP address.

Referring specifically to the claims, newly-added independent Claim 7 is directed to a communication apparatus that provides a service to an external device via a network, comprising a plurality of network connection units that are connected to the network, and a control unit that (a) notifies to the external device a plurality of IP addresses assigned to the plurality of network connection units, respectively, (b) selects from the plurality of IP addresses an IP address selected by the external device, and (c) releases the plurality of IP addresses except the selected IP address, wherein the communication apparatus provides the service to the external device via the network using the selected IP address.

Claim 13 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 7.

The art of record, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to teach the features of newly-added independent Claims 7 and 13, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a communication apparatus having a control unit that (a) notifies to the external device a plurality of IP addresses assigned to the plurality of network connection units, respectively, (b) selects from the plurality of IP addresses an IP address selected by the external device, and (c) releases the plurality of IP addresses except the selected IP address, wherein the communication apparatus provides the service to the external device via the network using the selected IP address.

Kostic is seen to disclose a network node that has multiple network devices 110-111 for connecting to multiple different networks, or different network portions, respectively. The devices include networking protocol stacks to support communication via multiple networking protocols. For instance, each device may include a stack that supports both the IPv4 protocol and the IPv6 protocol. However, Kostic is not seen to

teach the control unit of the invention and in particular, is not seen to teach at least the features of a communication apparatus having a control unit that (a) notifies to the external device a plurality of IP addresses assigned to the plurality of network connection units, respectively, (b) selects from the plurality of IP addresses an IP address selected by the external device, and (c) releases the plurality of IP addresses except the selected IP address, wherein the communication apparatus provides the service to the external device via the network using the selected IP address.

The other art of record, namely Hayes (U.S. Publication 2006/0259183), Swales (U.S. Patent 6,982,953), and Cheng (U.S. Publication 2002/0078161) has been studied, but none of those references are seen to teach anything that, either alone or in any combination with Kostic or one another, would have resulted in at least the features of a communication apparatus having a control unit that (a) notifies to the external device a plurality of IP addresses assigned to the plurality of network connection units, respectively, (b) selects from the plurality of IP addresses an IP address selected by the external device, and (c) releases the plurality of IP addresses except the selected IP address, wherein the communication apparatus provides the service to the external device via the network using the selected IP address.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 7 to 18 are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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